

[23] I claim:

1. A portable observation tower comprising:

a frame;

a tower support section attached to a rear section of the frame;

a tower section pivotally attached to the rear frame section;

a personnel enclosure having a personnel opening and volume at least sufficient to contain one adult person, the personnel enclosure being moveably attached to the tower section;

a winch located on the tower support section;

a winch cable having a first end attached to a drum of the winch and a second end removeably attached to the personnel enclosure;

a means for using the winch and cable to raise the tower section and personnel enclosure from a first position substantially parallel to and resting on the frame to a second position substantially vertical;

a means for locking the tower section into the second position; and

a means for using the winch and cable to move the personnel enclosure up and down the tower section between a first position substantially near the top of the tower section to a second position substantially near the bottom of the tower section.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the tower section is pivotally attached to the tower support section.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the winch is located on the frame.
4. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the winch is located on the frame.
5. An apparatus as in any one of the preceding claims in which the frame has a tongue section, one or more axles, and at least two wheels.
6. The apparatus of claim 5 further comprising:
 - an outrigger member having an inboard end and an outboard end, the inboard end being pivotally attached to the frame; and
 - a leveling jack attached substantially near the outboard end of the outrigger member, the leveling jack having a means for providing contact with the ground by a leveling jack member.
7. The apparatus of claim 5 further comprising a ramp suitable for wheelchair access and moveably attached to the frame, the ramp having a first end proximate to the frame and a second end proximate to the ground when the ramp is in a position extended from the frame.
8. The apparatus of claim 5 further comprising a ramp suitable for wheelchair access and moveably attached to the tower support section, the ramp having a first end proximate to the tower support section and a second end proximate to the ground when the ramp is in a position extended from the tower support section.

9. An apparatus as in any one of claims 1-4 in which the frame is removeably mountable to a motorized vehicle.

10. A portable observation tower comprising:

- a base tower support section attached to a member of a motorized vehicle;

- a tower section pivotally attached to the base tower support section;

- an outrigger member removeably attached to the motorized vehicle, the outrigger having a leveling jack, the leveling jack having a means for providing contact with the ground by a leveling jack member;

- a personnel enclosure having a personnel opening and volume at least sufficient to contain one adult person, the personnel enclosure being moveably attached to the tower section;

- a winch located on the tower support section;

- a winch cable having a first end attached to a drum of the winch and a second end removeably attached to the personnel enclosure;

- a means for using the winch and cable to raise the tower section and personnel enclosure from a first position substantially parallel to and resting on the motorized vehicle to a second position substantially vertical;

- a means for locking the tower section into the second position;

- a means in addition to the base tower support section for supporting the tower section when it is in the first position; and

a means for using the winch and cable to move the personnel enclosure up and down the tower section between a first position substantially near the top of the tower section to a second position substantially near the bottom of the tower section.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the winch is located on the motorized vehicle.
12. The apparatus of claim 10 or 11 further comprising a ramp suitable for wheelchair access and moveably attached to the motorized vehicle, the ramp having a first end proximate to the motorized vehicle and a second end proximate to the ground when the ramp is in a position extended from the motorized vehicle.
13. The apparatus of claim 10 or 11 further comprising a ramp suitable for wheelchair access and moveably attached to the base tower support section, the ramp having a first end proximate to the base tower support section and a second end proximate to the ground when the ramp is in a position extended from the base tower support section.